

LUCKY

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

VARIOUS SHOTS: Casinos covered in lights with SHOW GIRLS in front passing out flyers. STREET PERFORMERS and ELVIS IMPERSONATORS entertain PEDESTRIANS and TOURISTS. The iconic fountain SHOOTs skyward in front of the Bellagio Casino.

INT. CASINO BALLROOM - NIGHT

TWO PLAYERS sit a long poker table with large stacks of multicolored chips resting in front of them. Surrounding the table are; cameras, CAMERAMEN, bright lights and a commentators booth 50 feet from the players at the table.

Surrounding the table and set are stands packed with SPECTATORS eagerly watching the action. A DEJECTED man walks off set after shaking the hands of the remaining two players at the table.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

With that elimination we are down to heads up folks. 529 players put up the \$10,000 buy-in and there are only two left to battle for the one million dollar first prize.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: MARK STONE (33) sits across from PHIL JONES (48). Mark nervously straitens his stack of chips, Phil is calmly adjusting the sponsorship patches on his jacket.

The DEALER (38) sits patiently in the center of the table with the deck of cards in his hand.

Mark has a well-groomed thinning brown hair and a five-o-clock shadow covering his face, slightly out of shape but built, like a retired athlete.

He sports a bright blue suit with a Hawaiian shirt underneath as if he were attending a wedding on a tropical island.

Mark's opponent, Phil, clean cut and dressed to the nines. Phil; thin, slicked back graying hair and a black suit with poker website sponsorship patches donning the jacket.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Look what we have here folks, the Bellagio Show girls have arrived to deliver the cash.

A parade of scantily clad SHOW GIRLS march onto the set carrying silver trays covered in stacks of cash. Mark's leg nervously bounces up and down under the table, he begins to sweat.

SHANE Norton (29) enters the area, sporting a red Adidas tracksuit and matching shoes, looking like he just walked out of an 80's rap video. A rolled joint behind his ear and dazed look in his eyes.

Shane jogs slowly into the stands and sits next to the STONE FAMILY. STEVEN STONE (29) Mark's younger brother, tall and trim wearing a business suit minus the tie, looks like an extra in *Wolf of Wall Street*.

Steven shakes his head at Shane's attire while his wife, KATIE STONE hugs Shane hello.

Katie (30) red curly hair, head-turner donning a bright flowered sun dress and red Chuck Taylor sneakers. She's Wonder Woman meets Girl Scout Troop leader. Shane attempts to catch his breath from his jogging entrance.

STEVEN

Are you seriously out of breath
right now?

SHANE

Water. Who has water?

BONNIE STONE (5) Steven's daughter and Mark's niece hands a tiny bottle of water to Shane.

Bonnie wears a Batman T-shirt, an infectious grin and long red hair holds a sign above her head that reads "Uncle Mark's Lucky Charm" with an arrow pointing at her head.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Thanks B-Town.

BONNIE

You got it Shane Train.

Shane takes a tiny sip of water from the bottle and cringes.

KATIE

Where have you been? You Missed
most of the final table.

SHANE

I overslept.

STEVEN

It's 9:30 at night-

SHANE

My afternoon nap really got away
from me.

Shane pours the remaining water from the bottle on his head.

KATIE

Better?

STEVEN

Much. How's our boy doing?

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: Mark stares at the Show Girls stacking all the money on the table, he bounces out of his seat and power-walks to the stands. He plops down with his family, burying his face in his hands.

BONNIE

(excited)

Hi Uncle Mark! Did you see my sign?

MARK

Hi Love, of course I did and I love
it!

Shane slides in close to Mark.

SHANE

Are you okay buddy? Nervous?

Mark lifts his head with a wry grin.

MARK

Nervous is the wrong word, more
excited or elated.

STEVEN

Then why do you look like you want
to cry, big bro?

MARK

I don't want to jump up and down
like a jackass. It's disrespectful
to the guy who just got knocked out
in third place.

STEVEN

I see.

MARK

Plus it's unprofessional. This is
supposed to be my job.

KATIE

Still pretty darn nerve-wracking
though I'm sure.

MARK

There aren't too many situations in
life where the worst case scenario
is to ONLY win \$600,000. One must
keep perspective in this world.

SHANE

Yea, but a million would be cooler.

STEVEN

He's not wrong.

MARK

True.

SHANE

If you don't win, I'm moving out
and ending our friendship.

MARK

(Sarcastic)

What a great motivator.

BONNIE

Want a hug for luck?

MARK

You know I do.

Bonnie gives her uncle Mark a big hug and kisses him on the
cheek.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thanks Bat-girl.

BONNIE

Go get em Batman!

Mark stands up with the look of sheer determination in his
eyes. He bounds back to his seat and sits down calmly and
stares down Phil who is signing an autograph for a fan.

PHIL

You look ready kid.

MARK

I am.

PHIL

You better be.

Phil sits down, the Dealer begins to shuffle the deck of cards.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CASINO BALLROOM - LATER

Mark's chip stack has gotten larger, Phil is visibly frustrated.

ANGLE ON STANDS: Steven stands, staring at the poker table perplexed.

STEVEN

I gotta be honest, I have no idea what the hell's happening down there.

SHANE

Your brother is a professional poker player and you don't know how to play the game?

STEVEN

Dad taught us how to gamble when we were kids, man. Mark went with poker and Dad taught me how to bet on sports. I got the shit end on that one.

SHANE

I'll say, you lost \$500 to me last Superbowl on the coin toss.

Katie shakes her head at an embarrassed Steven.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Okay, poker is both very simple and massively complicated. No limit hold em is the most popular form of Poker.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: The dealer pitches two cards to Mark, he examines them.

ANGLE ON SHANE: Shane points toward the table.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Each player is dealt two cards face down and there is a round of betting.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: Mark looks down at two black nines and pushes a small stack of chips forward. Phil measures out the same amount of chips and pushes them toward the dealer.

ANGLE ON SHANE:

SHANE (CONT'D)

Three community cards are placed in the center of the table. Every player uses these cards in combination with the two in their hand.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: The Dealer places the King of spaces, eight of hearts and the queen of diamonds in the center of the table.

ANGLE ON SHANE:

SHANE (CONT'D)

These three cards are called the flop. Once the flop is placed, there is another round of betting.

STEVEN

Flop. Got it.

Shane shoots Steven an annoyed look.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: Phil taps his hand on the table, checking to Mark.

Mark measures out a tall stack of red chips and pushes it towards the dealer.

DEALER

250,000 is the bet.

Phil thinks for a moment before matching the bet.

ANGLE ON SHANE AND STEVEN:

SHANE

After the flop, a fourth card is placed on the table and there's another round of betting.

Steven is staring at the Show Girls, not listening to Shane. Shane SNAPS his fingers in Steven's face.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Hey! Focus up man, I'm trying to teach you some shit.

STEVEN
Right, sorry.

Shane glares at Steven and shakes his head.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: The Dealer turns over the King of clubs. Phil checks, Marks thinks for a moment before checking back.

ANGLE ON SHANE:

SHANE
(annoyed)
After the turn is the final card, the River. This is the last round of betting and the best five card hand wins.

Steven nods his head but still looks perplexed.

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: The Dealer places the fifth and final card on the table, the Two of hearts. Phil looks at his cards and pushes his entire stack of chips forward.

PHIL
All in.

The dealer counts out Phil's chips.

DEALER
(to Mark)
2,455,000 to call sir.

Mark examines his two black nines, looks at the community cards in the center of the table. Confused, Mark stares down Phil, Phil stares back with dark sunglasses covering his eyes.

ANGLE ON BONNIE: Bonnie jumps on her seat while hoisting the sign over her head.

BONNIE
Break a foot Uncle Mark!

ANGLE ON CROWD: Katie leans in and whispers to Bonnie.

BONNIE (CONT'D)
Break your leg too!

ANGLE ON POKER TABLE: Mark smiles big and LAUGHS. He looks at Phil and pushes all of his chips forward.

MARK
I call.

Mark confidently flips over his two nines. Phil stares at the nines, then the board, the crowd is dead silent. Phil chucks his cards into the muck and shakes his head.

ANNOUNCER

It appears we have a winner folks,
Mark Stone is your Five Diamond
World Poker Classic champion!

The crowd erupts. Mark shakes Phil's hand graciously. Shane, Steven, Katie and Bonnie rush the stage to hug Mark.

INT. CASINO CAGE - NIGHT

Mark signs some documents in a small private room surrounded by safety deposit boxes.

A CASHIER (42) wearing a pantsuit and glasses points where to sign. Steven looks over Mark's shoulder as his signs.

CASHIER

Mr. Stone, would you like to pay
the taxes now?

MARK

Yes please, what's the total?

CASHIER

\$300,000.

MARK

For taxes? Holy Christ!

STEVEN

Uncle Sam is a hungry bastard isn't
he?

MARK

I better pay up though, jail
wouldn't suit me well. I can't go
to the bathroom in front of other
people every day.

STEVEN

That's your top concern about jail?

MARK

It's one of them. Plus I bet those
beds aren't too comfy.

Mark hands a piece of paper to the Cashier.

MARK (CONT'D)

Could you write me checks for these five names for the amounts next to them?

CASHIER

No problem, Mr. Stone. But I don't see my name on here.

The Cashier LAUGHS, Mark chuckles too.

MARK

You're worth a hell of a lot more than that.

The Cashier smiles and blushes a little, Steven rolls his eyes.

STEVEN

Who are the guys on the paper?

MARK

My investors, this tournament cost \$10,000 to enter. That's too much of my bankroll to risk at once so I took on investors. Kind of what you do at Merill Lynch. I think? I don't really understand your job.

STEVEN

That's okay, I don't really understand yours.

Mark hands another piece of paper to the Cashier.

MARK

Please deposit the remaining \$350,000 in this account.

The Cashier takes the account into and enters it in her computer.

STEVEN

Are all these boxes in here full of money?

MARK

Yea, chips or cash for the most part. High rollers like to keep cash on hand to play with.

Steven nods while staring at the wall of safety deposit boxes. The Cashier stands up from her computer and grabs the checks from the printer.

CASHIER

Okay Mr. Stone, here are your checks and the rest of the money is in your account.

Mark places the checks into his wallet then pulls out a wad of cash from his front pocket. Mark peels off a few hundred and hands it to the Cashier.

MARK

I already took care of the tournament staff, but I want you to have this. You've been a huge help.

The Cashier takes the money and places it in a clear white locked box.

CASHIER

Any suggestions how I should spend it?

MARK

Gamble with it, obviously.

Mark winks at the Cashier and she GIGGLES. Steven rolls his eyes again.

STEVEN

If you're handing out money, I'll take some.

Mark hands Steven a piece of paper with numbers on it.

MARK

Here you go big brother. That's all my money, well the money that's on the books. I want you to invest half of this in T-bills, send some to Mom and start a college fund for Bonnie. Leave me with about 100 grand for my bankroll.

STEVEN

Win a million and walk away with one tenth of that?

MARK

Welcome to Vegas big brother.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACE ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BELLAGIO STEAK HOUSE - NIGHT

Mark, Steven, Katie, Bonnie and Shane sit at a large table in the center of the restaurant. Shane and Bonnie color on either side of a coloring book. A beautiful WOMAN (26) in a tight black dress approaches the table.

WOMAN

I'm sorry to interrupt but I wanted to congratulate you Mr. Stone.

MARK

Do I know you?

WOMAN

Oh sorry, you probably don't recognize me in clothes.

Shane covers Bonnie's ears.

MARK

Pardon?

The Woman LAUGHS and blushes.

WOMAN

No, nothing like that. I was one of the Show Girls from the tournament, we stacked the cash on the table.

MARK

OH! Yes, how could I forget.

SHANE

Yea, how could you?

Shane stares directly at the Woman's butt, Mark SMACKS him on the shoulder discreetly.

WOMAN

I'm going to a private party tonight, I have a plus one if you want to join.

MARK

Private party? Sounds a little high class for a man like me. Who's throwing the party?

The Woman leans in close to Mark's ear. Steven stares at her butt as she leans over, Katie smacks him in the shoulder.

WOMAN
Ben Affleck.

MARK
Batman?!

WOMAN
I'll take that as a yes.

The Woman pulls Mark's phone out of his coat's chest pocket and puts her number in it.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Call me around midnight.

The Woman winks and saunters away. Steven rolls his eyes and takes a large sip of his drink. Katie glares at Steven with a concerned look.

STEVEN
(sarcastically)
You're a superstar.

The WAITRESS (24) with long blonde hair in a pony tail approaches the table.

WAITRESS
Another round?

STEVEN
Yes, I'll take another Jamison on
the rocks.

Katie leans in close to Steven.

KATIE
(whispers)
Honey, should you-

STEVEN
Relax Kat, special occasion.

Katie recoils, frustrated

SHANE
None for me, I have to meet the
club manager guy to discuss the
details for the victory party
tomorrow.

Shane stands up and begins to walk away.

MARK

Keep it under eight grand please.

Shane waves and exits.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

Mark, Steven, Katie and Bonnie walk through the casino floor towards the elevators. Steven is distracted by scantily clad COCKTAIL WAITRESSES, blackjack tables and a sea of glowing slot machines.

STEVEN

It's still pretty early, we should hit the town a little longer.

MARK

What did you have in mind?

KATIE

Honey, we just had a nice dinner. I'm sure your brother is tired and wants to get some rest.

STEVEN

Don't get me wrong, dinner was great but we can have a steak dinner anywhere. This is Las Vegas, we should celebrate properly.

Katie is holding Bonnie's hand and her eyes are starting to close. Katie picks up Bonnie, she rests her head on her mother's shoulder.

MARK

That's what the party is for tomorrow big boy, we're going to burn this town to ashes.

Katie rolls her eyes at Mark, he sees it.

MARK (CONT'D)

Or, just a sensible evening with good friends and adult beverages in moderation.

KATIE

Nice recovery Mark.

Katie rolls her eyes at Mark, he sees and recoils.

MARK

Or, just a sensible evening with good friends and adult beverages in moderation.

KATIE

Nice recovery Mark.

STEVEN

That party is just an ego stroke for you.

Bonnie is punching all the buttons she can find on the wall next to the elevators.

MARK

Fuck you, I earned an ego stroke.

STEVEN

Let's celebrate just the two of us tonight. Stone brothers only.

KATIE

Don't mind me, I'll just take care of our daughter alone.

STEVEN

Please honey, winning a million dollars only happens once in a lifetime! We need to ride this high tonight.

MARK

He has a point.

KATIE

Fine. Just be responsible-ish.

STEVEN

Thanks Kat!

KATIE

I'll put Bonnie to bed and I'll see you jackasses in the morning.

Steven kisses Katie on the cheek, waves bye to Bonnie and he waddles toward the blackjack pit.

KATIE (CONT'D)

He only gets ONE lap dance, okay Mark? ONE!

MARK

What makes you think we're going to a strip club?

KATIE

Don't patronize me Mark, do I look like an idiot?

MARK

Sorry. One dance for little brother and that's it.

KATIE

I'll know if he gets more. Now get out of here before I change my mind.

Katie picks up Bonnie and waits for the elevator to open after Bonnie smashed the buttons countless times.

ANGLE ON MARK AND STEVEN: Mark and Steven high five in the distance like ten year old boys who found a Playboy in the woods.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Mark has the phone in hand with a suspicious look on his face. Steven is lost in a trance looking at one of STRIPPERS dancing in front of him.

MARK

(into the phone)

Oh nice, you got the VIP room for \$6,000, great job. Yea, just toss it on my Master Card you have. We're at the Rhino. Stone brothers only, sorry buddy. Go play some poker and win your rent, you're two weeks late.

Mark hangs up and smirks.

STEVEN

Alright, no more phones. Focus on the show.

Mark LAUGHS and folds one dollar bills lengthwise and builds green castles of cash.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

This is why I love you. A regular person would just throw the money at the girls and not think twice.

(MORE)

STEVEN (CONT'D)

You put a personal creative spin on everything.

MARK

Thanks man, I just try to make everything fun.

STEVEN

And you succeed at it. I wish I had more of that in my life.

Mark's phone sits on the ledge of the stage and keeps lighting up with phone calls and texts.

MARK

More what? Fun?

STEVEN

Yea. My whole life is just responsibility.

MARK

But you have the good shit. Family, wife, house, steady job and fancy suits. All my shit is fleeting.

A topless STRIPPER (23) approaches Mark's cash castle and starts to LAUGH.

STRIPPER

Aren't you creative sweetie?

MARK

Only when properly motivated miss.

STRIPPER

Oh you're cute.

The Stripper kicks the cash castle over with her six inch crystal clear heels. She sits on the edge of the stage and gyrates inches from Mark's face. Steven stares in shock.

STEVEN

Does that shit get old?

MARK

I see it this way; when I'm hungry, I'd rather get fast food than put the time into cooking. Your life is a gourmet dinner, more work but far more of a reward. But we both are fed.

STEVEN

Sometimes I just want to cruise the drive-through and pig out.

MARK

It's great in the moment but you feel sick once your done and you shaved some years off your life.

Mark takes a sip of his drink while enjoying the private show he's getting from the Stripper.

MARK (CONT'D)

It's not always fulfilling, but I like it for now.

Steven finishes his drink with one large GULP and hails the WAITRESS (22). Mark looks at his phone as the Waitress approaches. The stripper scoops her wad of money, winks at Mark and saunters away.

WAITRESS

What can I get you boys?

MARK

Can we just get a check?

STEVEN

What the hell?! It's not even midnight.

MARK

I know, but I need to go pay my investors. My phone hasn't stopped all night. It's like they think I'm going to stiff them.

STEVEN

Fine. We can go.

Steven grabs Mark's drink, chugs it and SLAMS the glass down on the counter.

MARK

(to Shane)

That's just rude.

MARK (CONT'D)

(to waitress)

We'll take two Jack and Cokes for the road.

STEVEN

Now you're thinking. Make them
doubles please.

The waitress smiles and strolls away in her skimpy uniform,
Steven watches her like a hawk ready to snatch up its prey.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CASINO HOTEL - NIGHT

Steven fumbles for his key in his pockets, finds it and crams
it in the door.

STEVEN

Alright, you go pay your greedy
investors. I'm going to have a
nightcap and crash. Although that
Ben Affleck party would be a better
move.

MARK

I agree, partying with Batman would
be insane but I have to pay these
vultures. Will you do me a favor?

STEVEN

Anything for you.

Mark pulls out a wad of cash, a couple credit cards and hands
them to Steven.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I'm a little drunk, what is
happening now?

MARK

A couple of my backers live in
sketchy parts of town and I don't
want to get jumped. Vegas isn't as
shinny as it looks on the surface.

STEVEN

How about dad's watch? You don't
want to lose that.

MARK

Wow. You're right.

Mark takes off the watch and hands it to Steven. Mark gives
Steven a big hug. Mark smiles and starts to leave.

STEVEN

Hey-

MARK

Yea?

STEVEN

(drunkenly)

I'm proud of you big bro, I don't
tell you that enough. Dad would
have been too.

Steven stumbles into his room and closes the door before Mark can respond, Mark smiles.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Katie and Bonnie are sound asleep, Steven quietly makes himself a drink from the mini bar. He opens the ice bucket and it's just a small puddle of water inside.

STEVEN

Shit.

Steven puts on Mark's watch and sneaks out of the room with the ice bucket tucked under his arm.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

The lobby overlooks the casino floor, an ocean of bright lights and flashing slot machines RINGING. Steven stares out in a trance while holding the full bucket of ice.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, one of the dancers from the strip club earlier in a night, with a red dress painted on her body walks by and winks at Steven.

Flummoxed, Steven drops the bucket of ice and it spills all over the floor. He falls to the floor to pick it up and the wad of Mark's cash falls out of his shirt pocket.

STEVEN

Shit!

The Woman in red sees the money hit the floor and proceeds to help Steven pick up the ice.

WOMAN IN RED

I hope I didn't distract you. I
recognized you from the club
earlier.

STEVEN

Ah yes, I almost didn't recognize
you with clothing.

She GIGGLES.

WOMAN IN RED

So sweetie, are you feeling lucky
tonight?

Steven stares at her, then the casino floor, then the
elevators and back at her again.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Katie and Bonnie sleep peacefully until a loud KNOCK on the
door snaps them out of bed. Katie bounds across the room,
checks the peep hole then opens the door. Mark stands in the
doorway in a panic.

KATIE

Mark, what the hell is going on?
You scared the shit out of me.

BONNIE

Mommy, you said a bad word.

KATIE

I'm sorry honey, uncle Mark scared
the bad word out of mommy, it's his
fault.

BONNIE

That's a bad uncle Mark.

MARK

Oh that's nice.

KATIE

Sorry. What are you doing here? I
thought the point of brunch meant
you get to sleep in.

MARK

And day drink. But that's not why
I'm here. Did Steven come back last
night?

KATIE

Wait. He's not with you?

MARK

No. I walked him back here last night, left him with my money and credit cards.

KATIE

You gave him your money?

MARK

I had to make a trip to a less than desirable neighborhood to pay one of my investors who happens to be a prominent drug dealer.

KATIE

Drug dealer, Mark? Come on.

MARK

He's a nice guy, I don't judge people for their occupations.

Katie gives Mark a a disapproving look.

MARK (CONT'D)

We're getting off topic! Where is Steve?!

KATIE

(nervously)

He's probably at a blackjack table. Let's not panic.

Bonnie jumps on the bed and attempts to do somersaults.

BONNIE

Uncle Mark! Watch this.

MARK

That's amazing sweetie, you're gonna win a gold medal someday.

Mark pulls out his phone and dials again.

MARK (CONT'D)

His phone is going straight to voice mail. Maybe it died while he was on a heater at the tables.

KATIE

I'll get dressed, we'll search the casino.

MARK

I'll be at the bar in the lobby waiting.

Katie looks at the clock on the night stand.

KATIE

The bar? It's eight in the morning.

MARK

I think I earned it.

Mark points to Bonnie jumping on the bed.

MARK (CONT'D)

Bonnie, keep practicing your tumbling. Love you.

Bonnie does another summersault.

BONNIE

Love you too!

Mark bolts out the door.

INT. CASINO BAR - DAY

Mark plays with the ice in his empty drink and gestures towards the BARTENDER. Katie approaches and Mark waves off the bartender. Bonnie runs up to a large aquarium in the back of the bar, tapping on the glass at the fish and GIGGLING.

KATIE

Are you okay? Is there something you aren't telling me?

Mark pulls out his phone and shows it to Katie.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I don't understand.

MARK

\$100,000 was withdrawn from my account at 2 AM.

KATIE

(shocked)

No-

MARK

Yes. Let's hope to Santa he's on a heater with that money because it's about half my net worth.

KATIE

Two things; hope to Santa?

MARK

I'm an whimsical atheist. I don't believe in god but I support all mythical characters when they wield presents.

Mark sips the empty glass, looking for the last drops of booze.

KATIE

How many drinks have you had?

MARK

One or four, who knows. You said two things, what's the second?

KATIE

Half your net worth? Didn't you just win a million?

MARK

What is with you guys? I can't explain my job every two minutes.

KATIE

Indulge me smart ass.

MARK

Taxes paid, investors paid, bills paid, money for mom, college fund started for Bonnie and money for my bankroll.

KATIE

You started a college fund for Bonnie? That's so sweet.

MARK

Why aren't you freaking out right now?

KATIE

Let's just say this isn't the first time Steven has disappeared on me. Or us I should say.

Bonnie SCREAMS, Mark and Katie look over at her in terror. Bonnie starts to LAUGH hysterically at the fish in the tank.

BONNIE

Look at this one's eyes! They're huge!

Katie and Mark both SIGH in relief with a half smile.

MARK

Is there something you're not telling *me*?

KATIE

Steven has struggled a bit the past couple years. Drugs, alcohol and betting sports.

MARK

Betting sports?! Are you kidding me? That's the worst form of gambling. That's dad's doing, he was a lousy sports bettor.

KATIE

Mark you're missing the bigger picture. Your brother is a recovering drug addict.

The Bartender places a new drink in front of Mark.

MARK

And he's missing, with access to all my money. Well, not all of it. But a big fucking chunk of it.

Mark takes a large sip out of his fresh drink.

MARK (CONT'D)

You're freakishly calm right now, it's borderline scary.

KATIE

Hey, it's not our money he has, it's yours.

MARK

(sarcastic)

Oh. So giving access to all my money and handing him \$5,000 in cash was a poor decision?

KATIE

Steve has been sober for 18 months now.

MARK

He was drinking all night last night.

KATIE

No drugs though-

MARK

That we know of-

Katie grabs Mark's drink to take a sip but he snatches it back out of her hand and finishes it in one sip.

Bonnie is still LAUGHING at the fish.

KATIE

Bonnie! Honey, do you wanna play hide and seek?!

Bonnie runs up to Katie and smiles big.

BONNIE

Yea!

KATIE

Well, daddy is hiding.

BONNIE

Let's find him!

KATIE

Good idea, honey.

An angry smirk stretches across Katie's face.

INT. CASINO FLOOR - DAY

Mark, Katie and Bonnie walk tirelessly though the crowded casino, inspecting blackjack, craps and roulette tables for Steven. A casino FLOOR MAN (37) approaches the three of them.

FLOOR MAN

I'm sorry folks but she can't be on the casino floor, 21 and up only.

Mark rolls his eyes in disgust.

MARK

What are you afraid of? Do you think she is going to use her allowance, run off and take down the casino for millions?

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

She's smart but she's not Rain Man,
lighten up dude.

FLOOR MAN

It's not my rule man, I just don't
want to get fired.

MARK

Sorry man, bad day. We'll get her
out of the pits.

Mark picks up Bonnie and she smiles.

MARK (CONT'D)

We should leave Bonnie with Shane,
we've been hunting for Steve for
over two hours and she shouldn't be
around these degenerates.

KATIE

You're right, I don't want her
turning into her uncle.

MARK

Or her father.

Katie scowls at Mark.

INT. CASINO NIGHTCLUB - DAY

Shane holds a clipboard while inspecting a banner that reads
"Congratulations Mark, you're won in a million" the CLUB
PROMOTER (27) donning an ugly green suit approaches with a
case of booze in his arms.

SHANE

Get it?

The Club Promoter stares at the sign.

CLUB PROMOTER

Not really.

Shane throws the clipboard in the air in frustration.

SHANE

I can't work with you anymore, I
need a minute.

The Club Promoter shakes his head and places the case of
alcohol on the bar.

CLUB PROMOTER
(muttering to himself)
Asshole.

Mark, Katie and Bonnie enter the private VIP room and scan the room for Shane who is staring at the banner quietly. Bonnie runs up to Shane and hugs his leg, Shane is startled at first then LAUGHS.

SHANE
Hey B-Town!

BONNIE
Shane train!

Mark and Katie look at the banner, soaking in its beauty.

SHANE
What are you guys doing here?

MARK
Stevey boy is missing and we are hunting him down.

Mark looks over at a confused Bonnie.

MARK (CONT'D)
I mean we're playing hide and seek. Bonnie, will you count the chairs in the room for me real quick?

BONNIE
Okay!

Bonnie runs to the other side of the room and starts pointing at chairs around the room.

MARK
Steve didn't go back to his hotel last night. He's missing and took it upon himself to relive my bank account of a hefty chunk of my roll.

SHANE
I'll break his femur for \$5,000.

MARK
How about \$3,000?

SHANE
\$4,000.

Mark looks at Katie.

MARK

How's your insurance?

KATIE

I work at a hospital, our insurance is amazing and all employees get surgical discounts for immediate family.

MARK

Okay, deal. I'm going to keep that in mind. We need you to watch Bonnie while we look for Steve.

SHANE

You got it buddy.

Katie hugs Shane.

KATIE

Thank you for watching Bonnie, don't let her gamble too much.

SHANE

Yes Ma'am.

MARK

Oh. And we need to move venues for this party. I might not want to drop \$6,000 at this moment. Ya know?

SHANE

Say no more, I will handle this.

Mark points at the "Congratulations" banner, looks at Shane and smiles.

MARK

Nice one.

SHANE

I knew you'd like that.

INT. MARK'S CAR - DAY

Shane and Katie are driving down the Las Vegas strip while Mark is on speaker phone.

MARK

(on phone)

Okay, can you e-mail me the locations of all the charges as well? And keep the account frozen until I figure something out. Thank you.

Mark ends the call.

MARK (CONT'D)

Fuck!

KATIE

What did the bank say?

MARK

Multiple charges at The Spearmint Rhino and a cash advance at The Wynn Casino for \$100,000.

KATIE

What is the Spearmint Rhino?

MARK

The strip club.

KATIE

(sarcastically)

Very classy.

MARK

Well, buckle up because that's the first stop. Maybe one of the girls saw him.

KATIE

Should we call the hospital or police station?

MARK

Let's not think the worst just yet.

KATIE

(sarcastic)

Right, positive thinking. Off to the strip club we go.

INT. STRIP CLUB - DAY

Mark and Katie are standing in the lobby in front of the BOUNCER, TERRY STILES (38) who looks like he could body slam Andre the Giant without breaking a sweat.

The Lobby is tastefully decorated with framed velvet paintings of naked women, an ATM and a sign reading "\$20 cover."

TERRY

Hey Mark, little early for you
isn't it?

Katie shoots Mark a judgemental look. Mark CHUCKLES and shakes Terry's massive hand.

MARK

I'm actually not here for fun
sadly. Did you see the guy I was
with last night?

Katie pulls out her phone and show's Terry a picture of Steven.

MARK (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry. This is My sister-in-
law, Katie.

Katie waves awkwardly. Terry inspects the phone and nods his massive head.

TERRY

Yea. I remember him. I had to talk
to him a few times. He was being a
little rambunctious.

MARK

What time was that?

TERRY

Around 2 AM. He came back after you
two left. But he was with Rosie
instead of you. Trade up if you ask
me.

KATIE

(furious)
Who the fuck is Rosie?!

MARK

She's one of the dancers. Always
dances to RUN DMC songs.

TERRY
Sometimes The Beastie Boys.

MARK
Oh yea. You're right.

KATIE
HEY! Can we focus?

Terry and Mark are startled a bit. Terry hands the phone back to Katie.

TERRY
Your brother was looking for coke and I'm assuming he found it based on how he was acting.

MARK
Fuck.

TERRY
He left with Rosie and Krystal, I put them in a limo around 3 AM heading to The Wynn casino.

KATIE
And Krystal is another dancer I'm assuming.

TERRY
Yea. And usually has coke.

MARK
God damn it.

TERRY
Do you want Rosie's number?

Mark pulls out his phone and hits the screen a couple times.

MARK
No. I have it.

Katie shoots Mark a judgmental look and shakes her head.

MARK (CONT'D)
No answer. I know where she lives, maybe Steve is there.

Katie continues to glare at Mark.

MARK (CONT'D)

Quit giving me that look! I'm not the bad guy here. I'm a single man in Vegas, this shit happens.

TERRY

True.

Mark shakes Terry's hand and gives him a big half-hug.

MARK

Thanks for the help buddy.

TERRY

Anytime brother. Good luck.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. MARK'S CONDO BUILDING - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

The ten-story white-brick structure offers individual balconies to most units and large bay windows in all of them.

INT. MARK'S CONDO - DAY

Mark's apartment rests on the 5th floor of a luxury high-rise overlooking the heart of the Las Vegas strip. The home is incredibly clean with pristine furniture and multiple framed movie posters lining the walls.

Shane is thumbing through a large well-organized bookshelf full of comic books and DVDs. He pulls out a few books and a Batman Returns DVD.

Bonnie jumps on the couch while singing "Viva Las Vegas" by Elvis.

BONNIE

(singing off key)

Pizza Las Vegasssss.

SHANE

What are ya singing B-Town?

BONNIE

Pizza Las Vegas!

SHANE

Man I love that song.

Shane grabs Bonnie's hand and walks her to Mark's room.

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As soon as Bonnie enters she reacts with a GASP to Mark's massive bed which faces a large flat screen TV. She jumps on the bed while Shane puts in the Batman Returns DVD.

The walls are covered in framed movie stills, Boston Bruins banners and black and white photos of deceased poker greats.

Shane gives Bonnie some of Mark's comics as well as a pad of paper and some pens and pencils for drawing.

SHANE

Okay B-town, uncle Shane has to plan for our party. Enjoy this classic Batman movie. Draw me The Penguin or Catwoman so I can hang on the fridge.

BONNIE

You got it Shane train!

Shane high-fives Bonnie and exits.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Katie and Mark walk through a gated community, every apartment looks exactly the same except for the numbers. They walk past a small pool and hot tub with KIDS playing in it as their PARENTS watch.

MARK

What are you going to do once we get to Rosie's apartment? You don't have a gun or anything right?

KATIE

I'll be perfectly calm. I just want to find my husband at this point.

Mark stops at a door with the number "162" in cheap brass resting just under a peephole.

MARK

This is it. You're sure you're okay?

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

It would be counter-intuitive for me to break up a fight between two hot women.

KATIE

I'm fine Mark. And did you just call me hot?

MARK

I'm sorry. Beautiful not hot. Hot suggests a one dimensional sexual object. You're both much more than that as women to me. I mean, yes you're both hot but-

KATIE

Go on-

MARK

Never mind.

Mark KNOCKS on the door while sheepishly avoiding eye contact with Katie. ROSIE WAYNE (26) short curvaceous brunette looking like she breaks a man's heart a day answers the door, wearing boy shorts and a Spider-man T-shirt.

ROSIE

Mark! Oh my goodness, what a lovely surprise. Actually, what the fuck time is it?

MARK

Hey Rose, it's wonderful to see you and it's 12:30 in the afternoon.

ROSIE

Oh wow. Late night.

Katie fumes but keeps her composure.

MARK

About that, have you seen my brother? Steve.

ROSIE

Oh my god! Steve is your brother?! No wonder I liked him.

Katie LUNGES forward toward Rosie but Mark holds her back.

MARK

Umm, yea. This is Steve's wife Katie.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

We need to find him, he is missing
and also spent a large sum of my
wealth last night I believe.

ROSIE

(to Katie)

On no. I am so sorry, I had no idea
he was married. Please come in.

Katie takes a step forward calmly as Mark watches nervously.

MARK

Thanks Rosie, we just need to ask
you a few things. Also nice shirt.
Looks familiar.

ROSIE

That's because it's yours, silly.

MARK

I had a feeling.

Katie glares at Mark as he LAUGHS awkwardly.

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bonnie draws a crude picture of The Penguin talking to a
large duck when she hears a BARK in the distance. She springs
off the bed towards the window.

In the back alley of the condo complex she spots a small
puppy pacing back and fourth slowly, BARKING every few
seconds.

BONNIE

Puppy! I'll save you!

INT. SHANE AND MARK'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bonnie sneaks out of Mark's room into the living-room where
Shane is pacing while on the phone.

SHANE

(into the phone)

Yea, I need two kegs of PBR, one of
Bud Light and a half keg of Miller
High Life. Yes, I need delivery.

Bonnie slowly walks towards the front door and opens it.

INT. ROSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rosie pours three cups off coffee and hands them to Katie and Mark. Mark looks at his and puts it on the coffee table.

ROSIE

Don't worry honey, I put five sugars in it.

Mark picks the coffee back up and takes a sip.

MARK

Good memory, thanks Rose.

Rosie smiles at Mark. Katie rolls her eyes as Mark takes a big sip out of the mug.

KATIE

Alright, admittedly you are much nicer than I expected but where the hell is my husband?

ROSIE

Last time I saw him was at the Wynn around 4 AM. He was playing blackjack. Me and Krystal were watching when he got the bright idea to get a room and do some coke.

Katie clenches her first.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I don't fuck with that shit so I excused myself after much objection from Steve. They headed to the room and I left.

MARK

Was he up or down at blackjack?

KATIE

Mark!

MARK

Sorry! But money is my god damn tool for my job and I fucking need it to work, sorry I'm not sorry. Rosie, was he up or down.

ROSIE

He was down but not like a fortune or anything. But for sure wasn't winning. Plus Krystal isn't cheap.

Katie and Mark both freeze. Katie calmly places her coffee mug on the table in front of her.

KATIE

When you say Krystal isn't cheap,
am I correct to assume she is a
hooker?

ROSIE

Escort. Very high priced but yes.
I'm sorry.

Mark nervously takes a sip of his coffee when Katie SNAPS and lunges towards him, swinging wild haymakers.

KATIE

This is all your fucking fault
Mark! You and this god damn town,
he was doing so well and you had to
take him out.

MARK

I'm sorry!

Katie connects with a hard right hook, splitting open the orbital cavity of Mark's left eye.

MARK (CONT'D)

That is ENOUGH!

Mark pulls Katie off him, holding her arms as he continues to bleed.

MARK (CONT'D)

Stop blaming me for your fucked up
husband. He's a grown ass man and
made all these bad decisions on his
own. For fucks sake, I can't
control how you suburban assholes
operate in a place with all this
temptation. I wish you all stayed
home in Boston, I was better off
alone.

Mark storms out of the apartment then pops his head back in.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thank you for the coffee and
information Rosie. Sorry to disturb
you, let's get dinner this week.

ROSIE

Anything for you Mark.

Rosie glares at a disheveled Katie standing frozen.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 (to Katie)
 You can see yourself out. I'm truly
 sorry about your husband, I didn't
 know.

Katie slowly makes her way to the door and Rosie SLAMS it behind her. After a minute or two Rosie opens the door and hands a business card to Katie.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 Here's Krystal's info, I hope you
 find your husband, truly.

Katie stares at the card in shock.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Bonnie wanders the alley separating two high-rises, it's a maze of dumpsters and discarded furniture from the neighboring buildings. The Dog hides behind a broken sofa, poking his head out a tiny bit.

BONNIE
 It's okay, I won't hurt you.

The puppy WHIMPERS. Bonnie pulls a pack of peanut butter crackers from her sweatshirt pocket, opens it and holds out one cracker.

BONNIE (CONT'D)
 Are you hungry?

The puppy slowly approaches Bonnie's hand and eats the cracker. Bonnie pets him slowly and GIGGLES.

BONNIE (CONT'D)
 Good boy!

Bonnie reaches down and picks up the tiny puppy and carries him out of the alley.

EXT. ROSIE'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Katie sits on a curb, face buried in her hands fighting back tears.

KATIE
 What am I supposed to do?

MARK

We still have Shane's offer to
break his leg.

Mark sits next to Katie and puts his arm around her. Katie
LAUGHS through the tears.

KATIE

I'm sorry I hit you Mark and I'm
sorry I blamed this shit on you.

MARK

It's okay, you're not the first
woman to hit me.

Katie gives Mark a perplexed look.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm a pervert, what do you want
from me?

Katie LAUGHS hard and pantomimes punching Mark again.

KATIE

Never change Mark.

Katie hands Krystal's card to Mark. Mark inspects it.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Should we call her?

MARK

Let's make that the last option, I
don't need to watch you beat up a
talented exotic dancer in her
prime. Would be a shame.

Katie elbows Mark hard in the ribs.

MARK (CONT'D)

Let's just call the hospitals and
police station. It's not looking
good right now.

Mark hugs Katie then helps her up off the curb.

MARK (CONT'D)

We'll find him Kat. I promise.

KATIE

Just call Krystal. She know's where
he is. I don't want to see her, I
can't handle that. Please call her
though.

MARK
Yea, you're right.

Mark pulls out his phone and dials.

MARK (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
Hi, Krystal. This is Mark Stone, I
inadvertently bankrolled your
customer Steve last night. I need
to know where he is.

Mark pauses.

MARK (CONT'D)
Oh. I see. Thank you.

Mark ends the call.

KATIE
Where is he?

MARK
He was arrested last night. He's in
Jail.

Katie winds up her foot and BOOTS a car as hard as she can,
the alarm begins to SCREAM.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. MARK'S CONDO COMPLEX LOBBY - DAY

Bonnie wanders past a security desk, struggling to hold the dog. The SECURITY GUARD (41), looks like a retired football player who owns a chain of burger joints.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey sweetie, do you need some help?

BONNIE
Yes please. My uncle lives here but
I forget what number.

SECURITY GUARD
I can help you with that, who's
your uncle?

BONNIE
Mark Stone.

SECURITY GUARD
Oh I know Mark. I don't remember
him having a dog though.

BONNIE
Ummm. He just got one!

SECURITY GUARD
It's adorable. Mark is in 3062,
I'll bring you up there honey.

BONNIE
Thank you! Can you hold the pup, my
arms are tired.

SECURITY GUARD
I'd love to. What's your name
honey?

BONNIE
Bonnie! What's your's giant man?

The security guard LAUGHS hard and takes the puppy out of
Bonnie's hands.

SECURITY GUARD
I'm Bruce, it's a pleasure to meet
you little lady.

Bruce holds the puppy under one arm, leans down and shakes Bonnie's tiny hand with his other.

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shane enters the room with a plate of grilled cheese in hand.

STEVEN

Bonnie, I made you some lunch.

Shane sees an empty room and begins to look around.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Bonnie? Grilled cheese, your favorite. I think.

Shane looks under the bed, the closet, behind all the doors. No Bonnie.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Oh no. No. No. No. BONNIE!

Shane drops the plate and it shatters on the floor.

INT. LAS VEGAS JAIL LOBBY - DAY

Katie and Mark sit quietly in a blank room with only a clock on the wall, a few chairs and a anti-drug poster reading "D.A.R.E." printed in large red letters.

A large handsome POLICE OFFICER (29) who looks like Superman with a badge enters the waiting room.

POLICE OFFICER

Are you Mr. Stone's family?

Mark stands up and shakes the officer's hand.

MARK

Yes sir. I'm his brother and this is his wife.

Mark gestures towards Katie, who waves sheepishly.

POLICE OFFICER

We picked up your brother last night at The Wynn casino. He was high and causing a scene at the blackjack tables. Screaming at dealers and smashing drink glasses on the floor. Security grabbed him and detained him.

(MORE)

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
That's when we showed up, found two grams of cocaine in his pocket, a room key and about \$30,000 in casino chips.

MARK
The money he was spending was mine, he stole it from my account.

POLICE OFFICER
I see. Well, I'll need you to fill out a report Mr. Stone. But there is more.

MARK
Let me guess, soliciting a prostitute?

Katie smacks her palm to her forehead and shakes her head.

POLICE OFFICER
No, the woman that was with him took off when security informed him the police were on the way. But when we showed up to take him in, he took a swing at one of the arresting officers and popped him in his jaw.

KATIE
I can't believe this.

MARK
Is the officer okay now?

POLICE OFFICER
He'll be fine but that also makes bail a bit higher.

MARK
How much are we talking?

The officer grabs a clipboard off the counter and flips through it.

POLICE OFFICER
Steven Stone; assaulting a peace officer, possession of a controlled substance, resisting arrest and disturbing the peace. And if he stole this money from you as you claimed, that would be grand larceny as well. Do you want to press charges on the theft?

MARK

Can I speak with him first?

POLICE OFFICER

Of course. But if you do bail him out, he is obligated to attend a rehab center for a minimum of sixty days.

MARK

Katie, are you coming?

KATIE

I need a minute.

MARK

I understand, I'd like to speak with him alone for a minute anyway.

Mark follows the officer.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Steven sits on a bench in a cell with graffiti-covered concrete walls. A single toilet and sink are located in the back corner.

Mark slowly approaches with the officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Stone! You have a visitor.

The officer nods at Mark and gives him some privacy. Steven sits up and looks at Mark sheepishly.

STEVEN

I don't know what to say.

Steven stands up and approaches the bars. Mark leans in close, reaches his hand through the bars and POPS a right jab to Steve's face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Fuck, Mark.

MARK

You deserve it.

Steven wipes blood from his nose with his shirt sleeve.

STEVEN

I know-

MARK

You stole my money and blew it up your nose. You dumped a fortune on blackjack and the cherry on top, you got a high priced escort. All on my dime!

STEVEN

I was doing so well back in Boston. I was clean for a year. No drugs and no gambling.

MARK

What the fuck happened?

STEVEN

I lost control. I see you living this fun and carefree life out here and achieving so much, I wanted to know what it felt like. A few drinks led to gambling, I lost the cash you gave me so I had the bright idea to take money out of the account. I wanted to feel like a big shot, handful of cash and a pretty girl on my arm.

MARK

That pretty girl is my ex by the way.

STEVEN

You dated Rosie?

MARK

I did. Briefly.

STEVEN

See, you have all the things I daydream about. Katie got pregnant when I was 23, I never had those crazy nights most people get in their 20's. I just snapped last night and things snowballed.

MARK

How much of my money did you lose?

Steve hangs his head in shame.

STEVEN

\$70,000.

Mark tries to grab Steven through the bars but can't reach.

MARK

Jesus fucking Christ Steve. You asshole! I earned that money!

STEVEN

Well, you won that money.

MARK

Poker IS fucking work you dirt bag. I play 70 hours a week and I've done it for years. I've had my heart ripped out of my chest by this game countless times and I've kept fighting. I finally get to this great place, achieve a dream and you took from me.

STEVEN

I'm so sorry Mark. I will pay you back, I swear.

MARK

I'll add it to your tab after I pay for rehab.

STEVEN

Rehab?

MARK

Oh yea. You're gonna dry out here in the desert and it's non - negotiable.

STEVEN

Shit.

Mark pauses and paces in front of the cell for a moment.

MARK

Yea, buckle up. Now let's get you out of that cage.

Steven attempts a half smile.

INT. MARK'S CONDO - DAY

Shane is tearing the condo apart searching for Bonnie.

SHANE

Bonnie! Are you hiding? Shit!

Shane is startled by a KNOCK at the door. He slowly opens it to reveal Bonnie and Bruce, who is holding a puppy.

BONNIE
Hi, Shane train!

SHANE
Bonnie! How the heck did you get
out of the apartment?

BRUCE
I found her in the lobby with this
dog.

SHANE
Huh?

BONNIE
He needed help, I saw him out the
window all alone. I had to save
him. Look how cute he is.

Shane pets the dog while it's in Bruce's massive arms.

SHANE
You have a point B. Okay, he can
stay!

BRUCE
That was easy.

SHANE
Yea. I'm a softie. Thanks for
bringing her back, Bruce.

BRUCE
Just doing my job, have a good day.

Bruce leans down and hands the puppy back to Bonnie.

BONNIE
Bye Bruce!

SHANE
(to Bruce)
Hey! You should come by the party
later, it's gonna be great. Beer,
ladies, possibly a sexy magician.
I'm still trying to figure out what
that is and how I got her business
card.

BRUCE
I'll see you there boss.

Bruce nods at Shane, waves goodbye to Bonnie and exits. Bonnie places the puppy down and it starts running all over the condo.

INT. LAS VEGAS JAIL LOBBY - DAY

Mark paces back and forth with his phone to his ear. Katie hasn't moved from her seat since they first arrived.

MARK

(on the phone)

Yea. You can take the hold off of my account. The next charge will be from the Las Vegas police department. Thank you.

Mark hangs up and approaches the counter. The CLERK (51), an older female officer who looks like she could knit a sweater and punch a hole through a brick wall at the same time sits behind a pane of glass at a computer.

MARK (CONT'D)

Excuse me. What is the bail for Steven Stone?

The clerk hits the keys of her computer and squints at the screen.

CLERK

\$20,000 that is fully refunded when Mr. Stone appears at his court date. After his mandatory ninety days in a drug rehabilitation center within the state of Nevada. Mr. Stone may not leave the state until his court date as per his parole. Will that be cash or card?

MARK

Card.

Mark hands his credit card to the Clerk slowly. She snaps it out of his hands, swipes it and hands the receipt to Mark.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Mark turns to Katie who cries, while still frozen in the same seat.

KATIE

Thank you for all of this Mark, I really don't know how we're going to repay you.

MARK

I really like those Rice Kripsy Treats you make. I'll take a weekly batch of those to start.

Katie LAUGHS through the tears.

KATIE

I'm not ready to see him yet.

Mark pulls out his car keys and hands them to Katie.

MARK

Take my car over to the rehab center. I'll text you the address. We'll take a cab over, that way you can get your thoughts together.

Katie hugs Mark as Steven is escorted to the lobby by a police officer. Katie and Steven lock eyes, Katie is silent. She stands up and walks out the door without saying a word.

STEVEN

What am I going to say to her?

MARK

I don't know, but you should start brainstorming that now.

INT. CAB - DAY

Steven pulls the casino chips that are left and hands them to Mark.

STEVEN

I'm so sorry man, I really am.

Mark counts out the casino chips and shakes his head.

MARK

\$34,000. I guess it's better than zero. I can still afford to pay Shane to break your femur.

STEVEN

What's that?

MARK

Nothing.

STEVEN

I have another confession.

MARK

Bring it on, I figure all my year's bad news can fall on today. Then I get it all out of the way.

STEVEN

I haven't paid my mortgage in six months.

MARK

So you haven't really been clean and gambling-free for a year?

STEVEN

No.

MARK

You've dug me quite a hole to climb out of, brother.

STEVEN

I'm not asking you to pay it. I just feel like I need to honest from now on.

MARK

Solid policy, especially now. Still feels a little late.

STEVEN

What am I going to do about Katie and Bonnie? They're going to be alone.

Mark stares out the window at the mountains in the distance as the cab glides across the highway.

The two sit in silence for a beat.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

You've been taking care of me since dad died, I wanted to stand on my own for once. Like a man.

MARK

It's my job to take care of you, I'm your big brother.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

Me taking care of you doesn't make
you less of a man, we all need
family.

Steven puts his arm around Mark.

STEVEN

I don't know how I'll ever repay
you.

MARK

I'll take money. My calculations
have it around \$71,000 not counting
what I'll need to pay for rehab.
Hopefully your insurance covers
part of it.

Steven and Mark LAUGH like two kids at a slumber party
despite the tension.

EXT. REHAB CENTER - DAY

The cab pulls up to a palatial estate with perfectly
manicured lawns and plants. Pools on the side of the
building, tennis courts and a view of the mountains in the
distance.

Mark and Steven exit the cab to see Katie standing by the
front door with her arms crossed.

STEVEN

Shit.

MARK

Just be honest with her.

Mark walks by Katie and taps her on the shoulder.

MARK (CONT'D)

Give me your insurance card, I'm
gonna go add to your husband's tab
I'm sure.

Katie pulls out her wallet and hands the card to Mark, Steve
approaches slowly, Mark strolls into the lobby.

STEVEN

What can I say honey? I messed up
so bad. I'm beyond sorry, I don't
know how I'll ever make this up to
you.

KATIE

Fist off, spare me that honey shit.
This better not be your apology,
you need to do better.

STEVEN

You're right. You don't deserve
what I've done to you.

KATIE

I'm so angry with you. You take
this time in here to think of your
apology. When you get out, I'll
decide if I want you back in my
life. As it stands now; to me, you
and I are no longer husband and
wife.

STEVEN

I probably deserve that.

KATIE

Get better for your daughter and
for yourself, then maybe I'll
consider things with us.

Katie walks back to the car, Steven is frozen.

Mark walks out of the lobby looking a sheet of paper.

MARK

Aright you have some pretty great
insurance but this still cost a
nice chunk of change. Steve, you
now owe me \$91,500.

Steven begins to cry, Mark wraps his arms around him
instinctively.

MARK (CONT'D)

Okay okay. Enough with the crying,
you're going to be fine. This rehab
center is a paradise, I had a
girlfriend who went here.

STEVEN

That's not why I'm crying.

MARK

She'll come around, just get better
brother.

Steven pulls back, removes the watch from his wrist and hands
it to Mark.

STEVEN

Don't forget dad's watch.

Mark examines the watch and hands it back.

MARK

Hold on to it. When things get
tough, just look at it and remember
I'm always in your corner.

Steven hugs Mark again.

MARK (CONT'D)

You still owe me a lot of money, so
getter better quick.

Steven LAUGHS through the tears.

Mark points to the lobby through the open bay doors.

MARK (CONT'D)

Good luck in there.

STEVEN

Thank you Mark.

Mark nods his head and waves goodbye as Seven enters the
building.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. MARK'S APARTMENT - DAY

Shane and Bonnie play with the new puppy by throwing tennis balls across the living-room for it to fetch. They're both LAUGHING uncontrollably.

Mark and Katie enter looking like they just ran a marathon.

BONNIE

Mommy!

Bonnie runs up to Katie, Katie's face lights up when she sees her daughter. Mark smiles and rubs Bonnie's head while she's in her mother's arms.

MARK

Hey Bat-girl

BONNIE

Hi uncle Mark! Did you win at hide and seek and find daddy?

KATIE

We did. We found him. But I need to talk to you sweetie.

The puppy runs back to Shane, Mark looks on perplexed.

MARK

What do we have here?

SHANE

Bonnie found a dog. We've been playing with it for about 3 hours.

MARK

She found it? Does it have a tag?
Or its shots?

Shane pets the dog.

SHANE

Tags, no. Shots, I have no idea.

MARK

It could be sick or have rabies. It needs its shots.

BONNIE

Can we keep him?!

KATIE

Honey we'll talk about the dog in a second. Now you know how daddy is a big important business man?

BONNIE

Yes. He has a phone that fits in his ear.

KATIE

Right. Well daddy needs to stay here in Vegas to do some business for a few months.

Bonnie starts to tear up.

BONNIE

I'm not gonna see daddy?

KATIE

He needs to stay here. But we will talk to him on the phone and on the computer and you'll get to see his face every week.

Mark looks on as Katie fights back tears with all her might.

Mark bends down to Bonnie and pokes her on the nose.

MARK

But I'll be there to take care of you and your mom while daddy is here taking care of business.

Katie is stunned, Bonnie starts to smile through the tears.

BONNIE

Will you come to my ballet classes?

MARK

I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Mark wipes the tears out of Bonnie's eyes.

KATIE

How does that sound sweetie?

BONNIE

Okay. But I'll miss daddy. Can we keep the puppy?!

Katie looks at the tiny dog in Shane's arms.

KATIE
Okay. Fine. We can keep the dog.

BONNIE
Yay!

MARK
But it's going to the vet first.

KATIE
Right, it needs shots.

MARK
(mutters to himself)
Great. More money I have to spend.

MARK (CONT'D)
Alright, everyone get ready right now, we're going to frickin' the vet.

Shane holds up the dog to the ceiling like he's in *The Lion King* then kisses its nose.

INT. VET'S OFFICE - DAY

The VET (48) a bohemian woman with dreadlocks and thick black rimmed glasses prints up tags while filling out the dog's chip information in the computer.

VET
What is the dog's name?

MARK
That's Bonnie's call. What do you want to name him Bat-girl?

BONNIE
Lucky!

Bonnie GIGGLES and hugs her mom's leg.

MARK
(to the Vet)
You heard the lady.

The Vet types the name into her computer.

VET
I like it. I like it a lot.

The Vet POUNDS one last key.

VET (CONT'D)

You are all set, you can pay the woman out front. Here is my card in case you need anything or have any questions.

The Vet hands a card to Mark.

KATIE

Try not to mix that up with Krystal's card.

Katie and Mark both LAUGH. Shane looks confused, Bonnie pets Lucky and smiles.

INT. MARK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mark packs a large duffle bag while Shane stands in the doorway devastated.

SHANE

How long are you going to be in Boston?

MARK

I'm not sure, at least three months.

SHANE

What about rent?

MARK

Rent? I own this place, Shane.

SHANE

I mean *my* rent.

MARK

Oh, just deposit it my account on the first of the month, I'll need all the money I can get while I'm away, the poker games aren't as good in Boston as they are here.

SHANE

Want me to sublet your room for extra money?

MARK

God no, I don't want a stranger in my room.

Shane and Mark both LAUGH.

SHANE

I'm really going to miss you buddy.

MARK

I'm gonna miss you too. The family needs me and family comes first. But you're family too Shane, I'll come visit once a month.

SHANE

Promise?

MARK

Pinky.

Shane bounds up to Mark and gives him a huge hug. Mark smiles and hugs him back.

Bonnie walks into the room with Lucky in her arms.

BONNIE

Shane, since uncle Mark is staying with us maybe you should have Lucky keep you company.

Bonnie holds up Lucky as high as she can and he BARKS. Shane picks him up and kisses his furry face.

SHANE

Really?

BONNIE

Of course! I don't want you all alone uncle Shane.

Shane starts to tear up, he leans in and hugs Bonnie. Bonnie GIGGLES.

SHANE

Thanks B-town. You're the best.

BONNIE

I am!

Bonnie runs out of the room LAUGHING.

MARK

I'll be back soon.

SHANE

Good. How's the bankroll looking?

MARK

It's been better, but it's been worse. I took half the money from my safety deposit box at The Bellagio, pulled some out of the safe here and cashed in the chips Steve managed not to lose.

SHANE

I can't believe he did that, what a fucking maniac.

MARK

He just needs help. And to pay me back almost \$100,000 someday.

Mark stuffs some cash into the bottom of his bag.

SHANE

Don't hold your breath. Wait! What about the party tonight? When is your flight?

MARK

I'm gonna miss this one buddy. Have a drink or six for me.

SHANE

You have a deal.

Shane Hugs Mark again.

MARK

You already hugged me. Geez, how many hugs am I gonna get today?

SHANE

One more!

Shane gives Mark a huge bear hug and lifts him off the ground.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Mark scribbles some numbers in a notebook as Katie and Bonnie sleep in the two seats next to him.

INT. MARK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shane stands on a the coffee table while chugging a bottle of cheap champagne. A large CROWD of men and women dancing and drinking cheers as Shane addresses them.

SHANE

Let's hear it for Mark! Who
couldn't be here tonight but he
sends his best.

The crowd SCREAMS and takes large gulps of their drinks.

DISSOLVE TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS-MARK AND SHANE

A) Mark scribbles some numbers on a notebook as Katie and Bonnie sleep in the two seats next to him.

B) Shane stands on the coffee table, jumps to the "Congratulations Mark" banner and hangs from it.

C) Mark continues to write while occasionally looking out the window.

D) Shane hangs from the banner while doing a shot as the CROWD SCREAMS.

E) Mark unwraps a blanket and places it over Bonnie and Katie as they sleep, cracking a smile.

F) Shane does a keg stand while Lucky licks his face.

G) Mark stares at the notebook and shrugs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KATIE AND STEVEN'S HOME - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A modern two story Colonial style home with bright blue shutters on every window. A perfectly manicured lawn stretches over the property with a single pink bike resting next to the front stairs.

INT. KATIE AND STEVEN'S HOME - DAY

Mark enters the house with Katie carrying Bonnie as she sleeps. The home looks like an ad for Pier One, perfectly clean furniture with toys and children's books scattered about.

Katie places Bonnie on the large living-room couch.

MARK

What time do you guys usually do
dinner?

KATIE

Around seven, does that work for you?

MARK

I don't have to cook, right?

KATIE

No, I don't trust you near a stove. Any meal requests?

MARK

How about that lasagne you made for Steve's surprise birthday last year?

KATIE

Done.

Mark smiles big.

MARK

I'm gonna head to my place and crash, I'll see you at seven.

KATIE

Your room is just as you left it, might need a dusting though.

MARK

I'm gonna need to hire a maid.

Katie CHUCKLES as Mark exits the house. Mark approaches the garage and up the stairs leading above it.

INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

Mark opens the door to reveal a small apartment with framed movie posters on the wall, poker chips on the coffee table and a pictures of the family scattered about.

Mark drops his bag on perfectly made bed, pulls out his phone and dials.

MARK

(into phone)

Hey. Yea, it's Mark. Sorry to call so early, I'm in town for a while and need a game. Are you still running these days?

Mark unzips his bag and dumps it out, revealing a few bands of cash. He separates it and stacks it in a pile.

MARK (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Oh great. Lock me up a seat for tonight. Thanks, I'll see you at nine.

Mark stares at his money, pulls out his notebook and looks at a list of bills while shaking his head.

Mark reaches into a cabinet above the refrigerator in the corner of the room and pulls out a wooden box. On the box are the words "Happy 30th Birthday, Mark. Love Steve" carved on it.

Mark opens the box to reveal a bottle of Lagavulin whisky with his name printed on the label.

Mark pulls the bottle out and underneath it is a photo.

CLOSE ON PHOTO: Mark and Shane as kids dressed as Batman and Robin for Halloween with their arms around one another.

Mark smiles, puts the picture on the fridge and pours a glass a whisky.

Mark stuffs all his cash in the wood box and places it back in the cabinet. He stares at the photo on the fridge, smiles and takes a large sip of his whisky.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE ONE

